

A letter from the CSAF

By **Gen. T. Michael Moseley**
Air Force Chief of Staff

Editor's note: Gen. Moseley sent this letter Sept. 2 to Airmen in the Air Force.

We are a nation at war. Today marks the 1,426th day we've been fighting Operation Enduring Freedom. World War II lasted 1,347 days. We've now been fighting the Global War on Terror for two and a half months longer than World War II. From the day Desert Storm kicked off, Jan. 17, 1991, the Air Force has been in continuous combat. For 14 years our enemies have shot at us and for 14 years we've returned the favor. But no matter how long the road, we must never lose our focus on winning this fight.

Today, we are engaged more than ever ... from across the globe to here at home. From taking the fight to the enemy in Iraq; to rebuilding lives in the wake of Hurricane Katrina; to controlling satellites on the other side of the world; to fighting forest fires in the Rockies; to patrolling the skies over America -- you can be proud of the work your Air Force is doing to protect our country. I'm incredibly proud to be a member of an Air Force family that has over 106,000 Airmen assigned or deployed in 64 countries, on every continent, and in every time zone throughout the world.

We have handled each and every task brought before us with lethal efficiency, because of you. It is an honor to work and fight

alongside you in service to our Republic. The 684,000 active, Reserve, Guard, and civilians of the U.S. Air Force are truly a total force. We stand alongside our Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine brethren ready to answer the Nation's call. We fight together. We triumph together. Our promise to the joint team is that as Airmen we will always be the best in the world at what we do: dominating Air and Space from one inch above the ground to 100,000 miles above the earth.

Today, we have three major challenges facing our Air Force. First and foremost is accomplishing the combatant tasks the president and secretary of defense assign. The tasks will be ones we've done before and ones we've never undertaken. Second, we must preserve that which makes us the most feared air force in the world -- our people. Our culture of excellence must continue to develop Airmen ... Airmen who are the most adaptable, most skilled, most professional, and most lethal the world has ever known. Third, we face the difficult task of operating the oldest inventory in the history of the U.S. Air Force. My senior leadership will work to break this vicious cycle. I need you, our Airmen on the line, to continue making the mission happen.

As we work towards a more secure, more peaceful tomorrow ... look around. Behind us you'll see a proud, rich heritage. And in front of us is a limitless horizon. So let's push it up, go to work and make the mission happen.

'I survived Katrina'

By **Mrs. Judy Lewis**
Deputy Chief of 20th FW Public Affairs

There I was in New Orleans in the middle of one of the worst natural disasters to hit this country in recent memory.

Temporary loss of connectivity with the outside world was, in one way, a blessing. Those of us who had flights cancelled and no other way out of the city were, for a short time, unaware of just how horrific the storm was and how devastated the city was becoming.

For me and my sister, our visit to the Big Easy was intended for very much needed rest and relaxation.

I was aware of the hurricane brewing off the coast of Florida and kept up with weather updates until we started to travel. At my last look Aug. 26, the storm appeared to be somewhat stalled and we took off for the long weekend.

Our plan included listening to some great jazz, eating at a few of the restaurants on our growing list, visiting art galleries and shops

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Commander's Connection



Photo by Airman 1st Class Joel Mease

Col. Bill Hyatt (right), 20th Fighter Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Gary Rutledge, 20th FW command chief, look over an Airman's dormitory room Tuesday.

"Commander's Connection" is a link between Col. Bill Hyatt, 20th Fighter Wing commander, and the Shaw community.

*Questions or concerns that can't be resolved through normal channels can be directed to the "Commander's Connection" hotline at 895-4611, sent to 517 Lance Ave. Suite 106, Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., 29152, or e-mailed to commandersconnection@shaw.af.mil. Callers should provide a name and telephone number in case questions need clarification. Comments of general interest may be published in **The Shaw Spirit**.*

Q I'd like to suggest keeping the Woodland pool open through the end of September. As a fitness swimmer, having a pool available on-base is a wonderful benefit and is enjoyed by many base residents throughout the summer season. It is difficult for most swimmers to travel to the Sumter YMCA to maintain peak fitness during the lunch hour. Few exercises compare with swimming in maintaining personal fitness, and I believe extending the pool season for three to four weeks would be welcomed by many here at Shaw. I also would like to recognize Tim Godwin and his staff. They have operated an outstanding the aquatic program and facilities.

A Thanks for the great comments and suggestions! We currently budget and staff the operation of the Shaw Pools from Memorial Day to Labor Day for a 16-week swim season. As you are aware, most of our lifeguards are students, which creates staffing and scheduling challenges. When they return to school, it is difficult to keep the facilities fully staffed. We are currently preparing next year's pool requirements, and we will attempt to increase the swimming season to 20 weeks to incorporate your suggestions.

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